



SENATE BILL 118: Downtown Service District Definition

2011-2012 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Finance
Introduced by: Sen. Preston
Analysis of: First Edition

Date: March 14, 2011
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SUMMARY: *Senate Bill 118 expands the list of examples of improvements authorized in a municipal service district for downtown revitalization to include public buildings, restrooms, docks, visitor centers, and tourism facilities. The bill received a favorable report from the Senate State and Local Government Committee.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, Article 23 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city council may define a municipal service district for downtown revitalization, in order to finance, with property taxes or bonds, improvements in the district.

A wide variety of projects are currently authorized within downtown revitalization municipal service districts, including:

--improvements to water mains, sanitary sewer mains, storm sewer mains, electric power distribution lines, gas mains, street lighting, streets and sidewalks, including rights of way and easements therefor, the construction of pedestrian malls, bicycle paths, overhead pedestrian walkways, sidewalk canopies, and parking facilities both on street and off street, and other improvements intended to relieve traffic congestion in the central city, improve pedestrian and vehicular access thereto, reduce the incidence of crime therein, and generally to further the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience by promoting the economic health of the central city or downtown area.

--the provision of city services or functions in addition to or to a greater extent than those provided or maintained for the entire city, in order to revitalize a downtown area and further the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience.

--promotion and developmental activities (such as sponsoring festivals and markets in the downtown area, promoting business investment in the downtown area, helping to coordinate public and private actions in the downtown area, and developing and issuing publications on the downtown area) designed to improve the economic well-being of the downtown area and further the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 118 expands the list of examples of improvements authorized in a municipal service district for downtown revitalization to include public buildings, restrooms, docks, visitor centers, and tourism facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

Giles Perry, counsel to the Senate State and Local Government Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.

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